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(b) whether the villagers themselves have expressed their willingness for the closing down of the shops; and

(c) what is the reason for the delay in closing the toddy and arrack shops in the villages of Pundipallam and Bulusutippa in the East Godavari district, as prayed for by the residents of the villages?

A.—(a) to (c) No such petitions or representations are traceable.

Industries

Manufacture of chemical manures.

397 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government to investigate the possibility of manufacturing chemical manures such as super-phosphates and nitrates of lime; and

(b) if no steps have so far been taken, whether he proposes to take any steps?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government considered the question of starting a departmental factory for crushing phosphatic nodule deposits found in the Trichinopoly district for manurial purposes but dropped the proposal for the following reasons:—

(i) The commercial potentialities of the nodule were doubtful;

(ii) the effective value as manure of the phosphatic meal was decidedly limited;

(iii) as a source of super-phosphate, the nodules were definitely unsuited, as the deposits compared so unfavourably with imported phosphates in the matter of phosphoric acid content that it was cheaper per unit of phosphoric acid to import the higher grade phosphates; and

(iv) as, owing to the high content of carbonate and of impurities such as iron, the amount of sulphuric acid required for manufacturing super-phosphate out of the nodules would be excessive and the product tended to 'revert' or become insoluble.

As regards manufacturing nitrates of lime, there is at present no prospect of manufacturing nitrogen fixation products in this country at an economic rate and the Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

[For further list of unstarred questions, vide page 749 infra.].

STARRED QUESTIONS

Jails

Allowances and rent-free quarters to Sub-Assistant Surgeons on jail duty.

*398 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar:—Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to the 1st September 1923, the jail allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem and the rent-free quarters were allowed to the sub-assistant surgeon on jail duty;

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(*b*) what were the reasons for their abolition ;

(*c*) whether the Indian Jails Committee recommended the restitution of the jail allowance in addition to a reward allowance and rent-free quarters to the sub-assistant surgeons to compensate for the loss of their private practice ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the period of jail service for the sub-assistant surgeons is three years whereas the period for Agency service is two years ;

(*e*) what are the reasons for such distinction ;

(*f*) whether the Government have received any memorial from sub-assistant surgeons on jail duty ; and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons and the Surgeon-General have recommended the allowances and rent-free quarters and the reduction of the period of jail service from three to two years ;

(*h*) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving effect to the new proposals ; and

(*i*) when the proposals will be given effect to ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In view of the improvement effected in the pay of sub-assistant surgeons in 1921 and as service in a jail was made an ordinary incident in a sub-assistant surgeon's career, the Government directed the abolition of the duty allowance and the concession of rent-free quarters allowed to them.

(*c*) The Indian Jails Committee submitted its report before the scale of pay of sub-assistant surgeons was revised in 1921. The Committee recommended the grant of a special allowance and of reward allowance and the provision of rent-free quarters. The recommendations were not accepted by the Government.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) The usual period for which a sub-assistant surgeon is expected to remain in a district is five years. The period of Agency service was fixed as two years on account of the unhealthy nature of the Agency. A period of six years was considered necessary in the case of sub-assistant surgeons employed in jails in order to ensure that the officers are not changed just when they have become thoroughly conversant with the Jail rules and routine.

(*f*), (*h*) & (*i*) Yes. The question is under consideration. Orders will be issued shortly.

(*g*) The Inspector-General of Prisons and the Surgeon-General have recommended the grant of duty allowance and the concession of rent-free quarters. The Surgeon-General is in favour of reducing the period of jail duty from three to two years, while the Inspector-General of Prisons is not for it.

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar :—" Sir, the answer to clause (*g*) runs thus:—' The Inspector-General of Prisons and the Surgeon-General have recommended the grant of duty allowance and the concession of rent-free quarters.' May I know whether these two gentlemen are expert advisers of Government. And may I know whether in view of their unanimity Government are going to pass orders accordingly ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am afraid I cannot say what the Government Order will be. But I will say this: There is no question of expert advice in this matter. They are the heads of departments concerned and naturally the Government will attach weight to their recommendations; but the Government are not bound to accept their recommendations."

11-30 a.m. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Sub-Assistant Surgeons are allowed to live anywhere they like, or are they to live in the official quarters ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" They will have to live as near the jail as possible."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" So that, Sir, does it not follow that they will have to pay higher rents, now that their choice is restricted ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Possibly, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" In that case, will not the hon. Member consider the necessity of compensating them ? "

The hon. the Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As I have said before, the question is under the consideration of the Government."

Registration

Appointment of the Inspector-General of Registration.

* 399 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what is the principle on which the vacancy in the office of the Inspector-General of Registration has been filled ;

(b) whether among the applicants to the said post there were Deputy Collectors, senior in grade to the Deputy Collector who has been appointed to the office, and, if so, how many of them were Muslims and on what grounds their claims were overlooked ;

(c) what is the special qualification of the gentleman who has been appointed to the office of the Inspector-General of Registration ;

(d) whether the Government are aware that no Mussalman has up till now been appointed to the office of the Inspector-General of Registration ;

(e) whether the communal Government Order is applicable to the office of the Inspector-General of Registration ; and

(f) whether the claims of the Muslims have been considered by the Government in filling up the vacancy ?

A.—(a) The appointment has been filled up in accordance with the Statutory Rules issued with Notification No. 235, Public, dated the 11th May 1928, published on page 793 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 22nd May 1928.

(b) Yes. No Muhammadan candidate applied for the post.

(c) Among the persons whose claims were considered for the post, the Government considered him to be the best.

(d) No Mussalman has been appointed permanently.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.